No. 695 Twopence September, 1961

LIBRARY
STARR KING SCHOOL
NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM BOOK

THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

WELCOME VISITOR

The Rev. Richard B. Gibbs, B.A., S.T.B., will be visiting England and Scotland in September.

Mr. Gibbs is the Director of the Extension Department of the American Unitarian Universalist Association. This department organises and directs the lay movement of Fellowships, provides financial assistance to new churches, and advises on promotion and churchmanship.

Prior to his present appointment in 1954, Mr. Gibbs was minister of the Unitarian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, for ten years. For five of these years he was the Regional Director of the Southwestern Unitarian Conference.

A native of Medford, Mass., and a graduate of Tufts Theological School, he was minister in Brockton, Mass., before going to Memphis.

The General Assembly has arranged for opportunities for Unitarians here to meet Mr. Gibbs and get the benefit of his experience in the very successful field of Church extension and similar matters in the United States. The Assembly hopes that all ministers and at least three delegates from each church will attend one of the four conferences that have been arranged. The conferences will be on September 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd, and will be held in Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham and London.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Rev. Sydney Spencer, minister at Bath and Trowbridge and former Principal of Manchester College, Oxford, is to have a book published by Penguin Books, Ltd. Because of the length of time necessary for publication the book, "Mysticism in World Religion," will not be on sale until the end of 1962.

This is a well-earned success for Mr. Spencer and is an acknowledgement of his learning and authority in the field of mysticism.

PRAYER

Prayer is not a matter merely of spoken words. It is a matter essentially of the desire of the heart, the offering of ourselves in love to God, that He may unite us with Himself, and may use us to help and to bless our fellows.

SYDNEY SPENCER

SOME UNITARIANS AND THE DRAMA

by T. W. Roberts

Mr. John Buckley, reticent about his age, but around 95 years old, died in May last year, and in his will bequeathed £2,500 to Pendleton Unitarian Church, £2,500 to Cross Street Chapel, £1,000 to the Unitarian College, Manchester, and £1,000 to Manchester College, Oxford. It is hoped that a distribution of the estate will be made shortly. Originally a member of the Strangeways Unitarian Chapel, when that chapel closed in 1903 Mr. Buckley joined the Pendleton Unitarian Church, where he maintained his membership to his death, although he latterly resided in Sale, Cheshire. He started business life as a builder and for more than 60 years was active as a builder of cinemas and housing estates. He lived quietly, but took a great interest in the live theatre, and, although associated with Mr. Jack Hylton in such shows as "Kiss me Kate," "Call me Madam" and "Paint your Wagon," shunned publicity and refused to allow his photograph to be published. After the unsuccessful effort of Miss Horniman to establish a repertory theatre in Manchester, be bagan another venture in 1936, which is said to have cost him £6,000, and again he is said to have lost £1,000 during seven weeks in 1939. This did not, however, discourage him from purchasing the old "Hip" in Salford, opposite the Pendleton Unitarian Church, in the 1950's, gutting it, refurnishing, and restarting it as a repertory theatre under the name of "Windsor Theatre." This, although well supported by a competent company, and attracting many friends from a distance, again proved a failure, but at his death he was on the directorate of a circuit of about seven cinemas in South West Lancashire.

At the end of the 19th century, when the theatre was anathema to the Nonconformist Conscience as a whole, there were thriving Amateur Dramatic Societies at Strangeways, Pendleton, Monton and Stockport, and there can be little doubt that John Buckley gained his first interest in the theatre at the old schoolroom beneath Strangeways Chapel, particularly during the ministry of the Rev. Alfred Payne, father of B. Iden Payne and his brother who were members of the Dramatic Society, and when Miss Horniman, after building the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, came to Manchester in 1907 to pioneer the repertory movement, she appointed B. Iden Payne (from the Benson Company) as her art director and general manager, and E. T. Heys, connected with the Garrick Society started by Stockport Unitarian Sunday School, as her business manager. The family of Sydney Grundy, the playwright, were also members of the Strangeways congregation, and the repertory movement at the Gaiety Theatre was strongly supported by "Manchester Guardian" dramatic critics C. E. Montague, member of Platt Chapel, and James Agate, son of a former chairman of the Pendleton Congregation, and at one time in his youth secretary of the Sunday School. Readers of "EGO" will note his visit in October, 1940, to the Monton Church to attend the funeral of his brother Edward and friends at Horsham will remember that the second name represented by the celebrated initials J.E.A. at the foot of many dramatic notices was "Evershed."

Finally we should not forget the more recent work of L. Du Garde Peach, dramatist, broadcaster and founder of the Hucklow Village Theatre and Players, son of the late Rev. Charles Peach (one-time Minister at Upper Brook Street Church), and the celebrated Shavian actress, Frances Rowe, daughter of Rev. Dr. Mortimer Rowe, nor fail to notice that at the age of 79, "BIP" Payne is still broadcasting on "A Theatre Theme."

HAP

by J. Martin Hall.

There is only one place, as far as I know, where the small word "hap" occurs in the Bible. It is in the little book of Ruth. Of Ruth, cast down and hungry "in the time of harvest," we are told, "And her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging to Boaz." Hap, chance, good fortune this time took a hand in her life.

Although this word only occurs once in the Bible, it makes up for it by the number of its appearances in every day life. Hap has a long history on this planet. Some hold that Hap began it. Its presence is an ingredient in the excitements of each day. It certainly comes to us—good and bad hap—in letters through the post. Here it lifts one up in a transforming new friendship and casts another down in a friend torn suddenly away. Recently Hap has taken over a large new territory in a crazy game that has swept the country; a game that could very well be re-christened Hap. The existence of Hap has not to be proved. Its kingdom is not in doubt. We all meet Hap. It is something our race has had to come to terms with from the beginning of our race.

Some people simplify matters by saying life is a choice between accepting God or accepting Hap. This is God's kindom and this is Hap's. But if good has come to us when we know we have not deserved it and we are very cheered about it, can we say that! It's rather too easy sometimes dividing things up crisply into good and bad.

The fact is that both the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of Hap exist. It is that twofold world in which, especially at this time of the year, we remember the farmer works. His life is a Holy War waged in two worlds, one now wreathed in smiles and one now torn by howling blizzards and gales.

His art and craft is to make sense reign all the time and to bring Wholeness, wholesome wheat, out of conditions which are never long the same. The question is for us the same as his: how much faith and strength can we muster to establish that wholesome reign of God, and how much in the fight are we conceding to the realm of Hap.

In this gay story in the book of Ruth we have an instance where everything goes just right. The sweet-natured girl has a hard time, just as the farmers often have a hard time, but because in her heart she is struggling always for the Kingdom of God, when good hap comes her way she is able to weave it charmingly into the fabric of her life.

CHILDREN'S CORNER:

RAYMOND'S ORDEAL

It must be admitted that Raymond is not the best-behaved boy in the Sunday School. He fidgets a lot and usually wreaks havoc during the model making sessions. It is not intentional he says; things just happen that way.

Raymond's best idea every Sunday afternoon from his point of view, was the one that got him out of the room before everybody else. Somehow he always managed to change seats after the class period; and for a long time it wasn't noticed that he sang the last hymn on the opposite side of the room from where he started The idea came to grief some weeks ago.

As soon as the final prayer was over and the school dismissed, Raymond was at the door. But then, he discovered, so was Mr. Green; and Mr. Green was smiling in a way that Raymond didn't like.

"Raymond," said Mr. Green, "I want you."

"I'm sorry, Mr. Green," Raymond said, panting, "but—er—my mother wants me—I think."

"I've already seen your mother," purred Mr. Green, "and she thinks it's a very good idea." Raymond stopped panting.

"What's a very good idea, Mr. Green?" he asked.

"Your part in the Sunday School Anniversary service," said Mr. Green.

"My part?" spluttered Raymond, "but I'm not doing anything in the Anniversary service."

"Yes, you are, Raymond."

"But Mr. Green I can't sing. Ask any of the teachers; they'll tell you. And I can't recite for toffee; they'll tell you that too."

"Never mind, Raymond," said Mr. Green, "you have a part to play in the service next Sunday." And with that Mr. Green left.

Raymond spent a miserable week wondering what Mr. Green was up to. It couldn't be for singing because he'd not had to practice; and it couldn't be reciting for the same reason. Then he paused, because he had learned a poem—for the Spring Festival. He wondered if that was it and forthwith put in a lot of rehearsal time. Sunday arrived—and with it a bad attack of stage-fright.

Then, just before the service began Mr. Green handed him a box and asked him to be one of the two offertory collectors! Well! An important job, Raymond agreed, but what a let-down, and after all that worrying! But he was so relieved that he nearly dropped the box.

Mr. Green still had a twinkle in his eye and Raymond was sure it was all a plot because of his mad dash every Sunday afternoon. He said it was cruel, that he'd been worried to death. But during this worrying period he had still looked as fit and apparently slept as soundly as ever. The need, however, to be first out after afternoon school doesn't now seem to be as urgent as it was.

WORLD CONGRESS OF FAITHS

The Annual Conference of the World Congress of Faiths, which is to be held at Selwyn College, Cambridge, over the week-end September 22-25, is noteworthy for the part to be played by Unitarians. The welcome on the Friday evening will be by the Rev. R. W. Sorensen, M.P., who is Chairman of the Executive Committee of the World Congress, the chair at the main meetings during the week-end will be taken by the Rev. John Rowland, its Treasurer (Unitarian Minister at Brighton), and the service in the Chapel of Selwyn College will be conducted by the Rev. Magnus Ratter, Minister of All Souls' Church, Golders Green.

Among the others taking part will be Mr. J. Hutton Hynd, Secretary of the South Place Ethical Society, the Rev. George Appleton, Sir Basil Henriques, Mrs. M. H. Robins, and Dr. Leon Roth.

"I hope this chap Gibbs has something to say about maintenance as well as extension."

NEWS AND VIEWS

A good congregation at PLATT CHAPEL, Manchester, on Sunday, July 2nd, not only welcomed the Rev. Kenneth Wright, B.A., of Bolton. a former student minister with them, but after service saw their 82-year-old organist presented with a portable radio to commemorate her 47 years' service as regular organist and several more as deputy and assistant earlier.

She is Miss Margaret Poynting, daughter of the Rev. Poynting, minister at Platt for 40 years, mainly in the last century. She has been compelled to retire due to persistent eye trouble.

Miss Poynting has also held other Church offices, including that of President and in her father's time —at his home—met members of famous Unitarian families, the Herfords in particular. She remembers too Mr. Blake, the 1961 President of the G. A., who attended Platt Sunday School as a boy for several years and Platt ministers of last century and this. At the presentation advantage was taken following the handing over of the radio by Mrs. Wallwork, a member for many years — to present Miss Poynting with a bouquet of flowers —from the Women's League with which she has been associated for so long.

The ceremony is pictured above.

For the fifth year in succession the Rev. Dr. Preston Bradley, of the People's Church, Chicago, preached on July 9th, at BATH and TROWBRIDGE. This year there was special advertising of the services. At Bath a leaflet was distributed to all hotels in the city. As a result there were many visitors at the morning service (at Bath), and the evening service (at Trowbridge) was also well attended in spite of the absence of many members on holiday. In the morning Dr. Bradley contrasted the growth of knowledge in the modern world with the lack of wisdom. He had lived through three wars

involving his country and several "depressions." Yet he was as strongly convinced as ever he had been that man has the power to build on earth the Kingdom of Love and Beauty. In the evening he spoke of the new forces at work in the world to-day and their challenge to organised religion. Christianity must inspire us to courageous thought and action. There is no true salvation save that which has to do with the whole ensemble of humanity.

A public meeting with the theme "Who are the Unitarians?" was held in Walsall in June. The whole question arose because of a long discussion in the "Walsall Observer" in the correspondence column on "Christian Teaching." The affair was begun by a fundamentalist Anglican vicar when he attacked the Jehovah's Witnesses as being "perverters of the truth." The discussion was closed after the Rev. Robin Williamson's last letter. The vicar, not to be outdone, wrote a letter in his parish magazine, sent the magazine to the "Observer" and made the front page. The editor refused to let answer be made to this final attack.

The Christadelphians, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Unitarians challenged the vicar and any two other Anglican clergymen to a public debate but so far without reply.

The meeting was very well attended. Rev. Edgar Hill and Mr. Charles Beale, a lawyer from the Church of the Messiah, were brilliant in their very different expositions on the question "Who are the Unitarians?" Mr. Phillip J. Spencer handled the meeting in his capacity of Vice-President of the Midland Union with firm gentleness. This was particularly helpful in the discussion when the question of the physical resurrection came up and became quite heated.

(P.S. The meeting was held in the Blind Institute—we hope the vicar did not notice! Ed.)

The largest congregation for many years attended the DUNDEE Church on Sunday evening, June 11th. The occasion was an All Faiths Service this being the first service of its kind to be held in the city of Dundee. Nearly a hundred visitors including African, Indian and Asian residents or students joined the members of the Church in a most impressive service which was widely advertised as an "Act of Inter-religious Friendship." A visiting Congregational minister, who is sympathetic to the Unitarian outlook, was deeply moved and described the service as "unparalleled in his long experience as a minister."

The service was conducted by the Rev. G. D. Foote, together with representatives of Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, Judaism and the Society of Friends.

After the service many of the congregation adjourned to the Church Hall for friendly converse

THE MANCHESTER CREMATORIUM Ltd.

BARLOW MOOR ROAD, CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY
(Chorlton 3499)

The Books of Remembrance are on view and the Garden of Rest is open daily for visitors to bring flowers and sit awhile in the peace and tranquillity of this hallowed place.

For advice on cremation and the special remembrance services please write to the

MANCHESTER,
CREMATORIUM LTD.,
2, COOPER STREET,
MANCHESTER, 2.
(Central 4596).

ver a cup of tea. The desire has een expressed that an All Faiths' ervice should become an annual vent.

In order not to clash with Iniversity Examinations, the nnual All Faiths' Service at MILL HILL, Leeds, has been re-arranged or November 5th. The preacher will e the Venerable K. Wachissara, I.A., a Buddhist monk.

The Californian Girls' Choir, on a oodwill tour of Europe was able o sing in EDINBURGH because the Jnitarian Church there allowed it he use of its Church.

BROOKFIELD Church, Manchester, now has a Public Relations Committee. First results include an increase n the number of subscribing members, and attractive new style posters on the Church notice board.

TODMORDEN Men's League visited Halifax Borough Police Station H.Q. n June. Todmorden's minister-elect is an ex-policeman. Coincidence?

The School Anniversary at CHESTERFIELD took on a new pattern on June 4th. There was no visiting preacher. At morning service, conducted by the minister, Rev. Arthur Vallance, and attended by the Scouts and Guides, five U.Y.P.L. members were received into membership of the congregation by Mr. G. W. M. Rees, acting on behalf of the Chairman and Chapel Warden, Mr. M. R. E. Swanwick who was away. One of these was received in his absence, as two days previously he had undergone a serious operation after a fall.

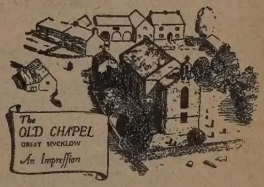
At Evening Service 31 members of Sunday School (it is now known as Junior Chapel) took part in a pageant in five short episodes, "The Tower of Life," which included dialogue, recitations, hymns and solos. After the service refreshments were served in the schoolroom and teams of junior and senior members took part in a "Twenty Questions" contest, followed by other games.

On Whit-Monday, the School took part in the usual District Walk of the Free Church Sunday Schools, and in the evening the U.Y.P.L. invited the Mansfield branch to tea and a social, which was enjoyed by

The Lindsey Press
ALIENATION AND FELLOWSHIP
by Dr. D. Russell Davis
Reader in Medical Psychology Cambridge
Essex Hall Lecture 1961
2s., by post 2s. 2d.

THE WAY OF PRAYER
a manual of daily prayers and readings
2s., by post 2s. 2d.

SUPREME HOURS
selections from the prayers, sermons and verse of
W. G. TARRANT B.A.
2s., by post 2s. 2d.
The Lindsey Press, Essex Hall, 1/6, Essex Street, Strand, London W.C.2.



Northern S.S. Federation
UNITARIAN HOLIDAY HOMES
GREAT HUCKLOW, BUXTON
DERBYSHIRE

No increase in charges. All three Homes will be ready to welcome you. Early booking desirable.

thirteen members from Chesterfield and eleven from Mansfield.

Professor Byron W. Saunders spoke on "Unitarianism in America" at LEICESTER in June. Mr. Saunders is from the Department of Engineering, Cornell University, and is a visiting Professor at Birmingham University.

PEPPER HILL, Shelf (West Riding), is celebrating its centenary. A recent Reunion Social was opened by Mr. C. I. Armitage a great grandson of a founder member of the Church.

CARDIFF Women's League Branch has attained its jubilee. At least six other branches in S.E. Wales came to St. Fagan's to rejoice with Cardiff and to meet the National President, Mrs. M. Whitaker, on June 24th. There was a short service in the Penrhiw Chapel.

PENDLETON'S annual Visiting Sunday on June 11th took a busload to Todmorden for Morning Service. After a sandwich lunch in the schoolroom a ramble was arranged and the party left at 4 p.m. and returned to Pendleton for tea and Evening Service. The joint ministry with Dob Lane is planned to start on September 1st, 1961.

FIVE LEVELS OF GIVING

1. The TIP level—my small change to the Church.
2. The ENTERTAINMENT level—I pay when I go.
3. The EMOTIONAL level—I give when I feel like it.
4. The GOOD INTENTION level—I'll give more when I've got more to spare, provided that it won't interfere with anything else.
5. The CHRISTIAN level—I give as I have been given systematically (week by week), sacrificially (that which costs me something), gladly (because "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver"), ungrudgingly (because it's a pleasure as well as a duty).

Let everyone read the above twice, then think about their standard and their contributions.

Stockton Calendar.

THE INQUIRER
The weekly organ of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
Every Saturday, Price 4d.
Obtainable from Newsagents, Bookstalls, or your Church.
By subscription. £1 6s. per annum from "The Inquirer" Office, 14, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

NORTH WALES UNITARIAN SOCIETY

Meetings are held at Friends' Meeting House, Erskine Road, Colwyn Bay, at 2.30 p.m. on alternate Saturdays.

CALENDAR

Sept. 2nd.—Rev. Albert Smith, of Knutsford.
Sept. 16th.—Miss C. Herford, of Rhuddlan.
Sept. 30th.—Mr. David Dunn, of Liverpool.

A warm welcome is extended to all visitors.

THE UNITARIAN, published by Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Annual subscription 4/-. Monthly orders, 50 copies 7/6, 100 copies 10/6 plus postage. *Business Manager*: G. HARRISON, 2, Walwyn Close, Stretford, M/Cr. *Editor*: Rev. PETER B. GODFREY, Dunham Road Parsonage, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Printed by Nuneaton Newspapers, Bond Gate, Nuneaton.